



# Canberra Bridge Club

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## MINUTES Monday 11 January 2021, 1.30pm

**Attendance:** Margaret Kyburz, Liz Van Der Hor, Lyn Turner, Deb Milner, Ian Robinson (not present for most of item 11), Pam Crichton, Sally Barber, Michele Grant, John Hempenstall, Patricia McDonald (until during item 7), Tim Mather, West Savery (until item 8), Mary Tough, Jennifer Yeats

**Apologies:** None

### 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 7 DECEMBER 2020

**MOTION:** That the minutes of 7 December 2020 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Moved: Lyn Turner

Seconded: Michele Grant

CARRIED

### 2. NOTING OF BY-EMAIL DECISION OF 10-12 DECEMBER 2020

The Committee noted its by-email decision of 10-12 December 2020:

- That CBC registers for the Check In CBR app and implements its operation in early January.

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 7 DECEMBER 2020

Most action items from the meeting of 7 December 2020 have been completed. In relation to not yet completed items:

- Sue La Peyre has agreed to be a recorder. Margaret has approached another person to be the second recorder.
- Margaret to finalise three replies as noted in the Action List.

**MOTION:** That the Committee invites Roger Curnow to join the Barry Turner Fund Sub-Committee.

Moved: Lyn Turner

Seconded: Ian Robinson

CARRIED

Deb will email the Barry Turner Fund document (approved by the Committee in May 2020) to Ian to forward to Roger.

### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Margaret noted that recently a CBC member was playing at the club but should have been in quarantine due to a visit to Sydney.

The member has since returned a negative COVID test. The Managers are monitoring changes to border and quarantine arrangements. Ian will remind the Managers about checking recent travel with players as they arrive.

## 5. MANAGERS' REPORT

The Managers' Report was tabled. Margaret will follow up about the number of participants at the beginners' lessons in February.

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lyn tabled the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020. The Profit and Loss Statement indicates that without JobKeeper, CBC would have shown a loss for the 12 months to 31 December 2020 (which included the 100 days when the club was closed).

Lyn noted that CBC has qualified for JobKeeper for January to March 2021.

## 7. REALBRIDGE UPDATE

Deb spoke to her paper outlining the results of the RealBridge survey, which was completed by CBC members who played in at least one of the trial games on 9, 16 and 23 December 2020. There was an 80% response rate. Overall, 61% of survey participants rated their RealBridge experience as good or very good, and 72% were happy to play either RealBridge or BBO or preferred Real Bridge.

Points made during discussion about RealBridge included that:

- There is demand for online as well as face-to-face bridge;
- We would need online bridge if COVID developments caused us to close the club again.
- CBC RealBridge may attract additional players, eg, the Wednesday evening RealBridge games have included some inter-state players who were keen to play RealBridge;
- RealBridge may give CBC an edge over other clubs who stay on BBO or StepBridge;
- With exchange rate fluctuations, the value of BBO\$3 per player has reduced, so a lower amount is returned to CBC. RealBridge is better financially for CBC;
- Pianola is establishing an online platform using video and microphones, but Ian's enquiries to Pianola indicate that it is in early stages of development;
- Bruce and Jodi have been running face-to-face and BBO sessions concurrently, but this is less viable if the number of face-to-face players increases;
- It may be appropriate to run a 1.30pm online session on Mondays and Thursdays, instead of the current 10.15am online sessions.
- The trial survey does not tell us the views of CBC daytime online players.
- We need to ask daytime BBO players whether they will play RealBridge.

**MOTION:** That the Committee agrees to introduce RealBridge as CBC's preferred online platform.

Moved: Ian Robinson      Seconded: Liz Van Der Hor      CARRIED

**MOTION:** That CBC continues RealBridge on Wednesday evenings until we can move back to face-to-face.

Moved: Liz Van Der Hor      Seconded: Deb Milner      CARRIED

The Committee considered the table money to be charged for RealBridge.

When BBO was introduced in May 2020, the Committee's focus was on providing an online option for members, not financial considerations. Some players argue they should pay less for RealBridge compared with CBC face-to-face games. Some players will have unused BBO\$.

**MOTION:** That as we introduce RealBridge from 11 January 2021 and until 31 March 2021, we will charge players \$2 less (so \$8, \$7 for concessions, and \$4 for young players not in full-time employment).

Moved: Liz Van Der Hor

Seconded: Jennifer Yeats

CARRIED

Ian will draft a Pianola message to all members about the Committee's RealBridge decisions, and a second Pianola message to Wednesday evening online players. Margaret, Deb and Pam will have the opportunity to provide comments. Following the Pianola messages, Deb will circulate the survey results to the survey participants.

Wednesday evening RealBridge will be a matchpoint game only until 31 January 2021. Ian indicated that there may be a RealBridge teams event on two Wednesday evenings in February. Further arrangements for the structure of Wednesday evening RealBridge will be discussed at the Committee's February meeting given, eg, any impact of the teams event on the matchpoint game.

The Committee considered the straw poll of Wednesday evening players conducted by Jon Pike. Jon spent a considerable amount of time on this task and made many phone calls. The Committee will keep this work in mind in relation to the timing of the return of the Wednesday evening session to the club. Margaret will reply to Jon thanking him for his work.

## **8. CBC PRE-PAYMENT SYSTEM**

Ian spoke to his paper outlining the small working party's discussions about the options for a CBC payment system, both for online and face-to-face sessions. The working party (Ian, Lyn, West, Jennifer, Emily) recommends that the Committee proceeds with the purchase and use of Matthew McManus's AJ Pre-Payment software program as the basis for the proposed CBC payment system. The software program has been used by bridge clubs in NSW. The one-off purchase price is \$150.

Lyn explained that due to accounting issues with Xero, the proposed payment system needs to be limited to table money and lesson fees only (so not membership subscriptions nor other payments). Rick Nehmy is checking the Pianola database for possible inaccuracies which could affect the interface between Pianola and the proposed payment system.

The Committee agreed that the new CBC payment system will be called "CBCPay".

**MOTION:** That CBC will introduce CBCPay in accordance with the recommendations of the working party, with appropriate communication to the membership occurring first.

Moved: Ian Robinson

Seconded: Lyn Turner

CARRIED

Ian will draft a further Pianola message to all members about CBCPay.

Margaret, Deb and Pam will have the opportunity to provide comments. The message will explain that vouchers were a short-term arrangement and are too labour-intensive, but unused vouchers can be returned and credited to individuals' CBCPay balances.

Ian is considering payment arrangements for visitors' table money.

## **9. DIRECTOR ISSUES**

### Voluntary directors

CBC has a shortage of directors, exacerbated by COVID. An individual wishes to not be paid as a director. In the past, CBC has declined requests to not be paid given our responsibilities as an employer. Recently Lyn has found that "commercial voluntary workers" are possible under our workers' compensation policy. Voluntary directors would still have an employment contract with CBC, so would be required to follow CBC requirements for directors the same as other directors.

A range of views and considerations were expressed in discussion. For example, some Committee members considered that CBC should pay all directors and have a consistent arrangement; some Committee members felt paying directors could be retained as the standard arrangement, while allowing capacity for exceptions in certain circumstances.

**MOTION:** That CBC in general retains its policy of paying all directors, but when necessary to ensure an adequate supply of directors and with a suitable voluntary director, the Committee authorises the Contract and Employment Sub-Committee to negotiate a contract without payment.

Moved: Lyn Turner

Seconded: Michele Grant

CARRIED

Pam will consider the amendments required to CBC's standard contract for directors for the Contract and Employment Sub-Committee's consideration.

The Committee noted the Wednesday evening session that will require further discussion at a future Committee meeting.

### Australian Bridge Directors Association (ABDA)

ABDA subscriptions for 2021 are now due (\$25 per director). Ian will clarify who CBC should nominate for ABDA membership in 2021, and whether CBC or BFACT should pay.

## **10. POSSIBLE STREAMING OF ONLINE SESSIONS**

New CBC members Vanessa Brown and Will Jenner-O'Shea stream a variety of online bridge games. They have sought (via Emily) permission to stream CBC BBO games with players' names blocked out. The Committee agreed that streaming was not suitable for CBC especially, as discussed earlier, we may be phasing out BBO. Ian/Margaret will reply to Vanessa and Will (and Emily).

## **11. COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE TO EMAILS FROM A CLUB MEMBER**

This item was discussed as the final agenda item at the end of the meeting. Ian gave his comments then left the meeting.

The rest of the Committee discussed the issues further and determined next steps. The Committee noted there were a number of major factual inaccuracies in the correspondence received.

The Committee agreed that Margaret will reply, with input from Liz, Deb and Pam.

## **12. COVID UPDATE**

Liz reported that a member has questioned the logic of not allowing access to the kitchen before play. The Committee noted that to ensure 1.5 metres social distancing, the Club requires only one person in the kitchen at one time. Compliance with this requirement is proving difficult for some players. It would be much more difficult with the likely greater demand for the kitchen before play. Once play has commenced, the reduced opportunity for players to be away from the table means that social distancing in the kitchen is much easier to observe, and there is less waiting. The Committee confirmed continuation of the “no kitchen access before play” policy. Liz will respond to the player concerned.

Revised versions of the CBC COVID-19 Safety Plan and Checklist were issued on 7 January 2021. The main changes were to add references to the Check In CBR app and one person per two, not four, square metres.

## **13. SUB-COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS IF NOT ALREADY COVERED**

### **13.1 Membership and Promotions**

### **13.2 Tournament and Calendar**

### **13.3 Contract and Employment**

### **13.4 Congress and Social**

- The Committee agreed in-principle that the Valentines Day event (open teams, and novice and restricted pairs) will occur at the Club, possibly 27 or 28 February 2021 but to be confirmed once dates for other clubs’ events have been checked. Mary, Michele, Sally and Jennifer will consider the lunchtime and other arrangements in light of experience with the Inter-Club Teams on 17 January 2021. We can fit 22 table configurations in the Barry Turner Room.
- Mary and Michele reported that the cost of the Christmas celebrations was \$491.

### **13.5 House**

### **13.6 Education**

- Ian will finalise the dates in February for the Kantar lessons once the date for the Valentines Day event is confirmed.

### **13.7 BFACT**

- Liz reported that John Donovan was seeking CBC’s advice about COVID arrangements for BFACT’s Inter-Club Teams on 17 January 2021. Coincidentally, Deb had emailed John on 9 January 2021 about these arrangements. Deb will follow up with John.

### **13.8 Website**

### **13.9 Finance**

### **13.10 Barry Turner Fund**

### **13.11 COVID-19**

- Deb asked about the arrangements to ensure visitors’ contact details are collected if they don’t register their attendance via the Check In CBR app. Ian will confirm that visitors are providing their details to the managers.

## **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

Deb outlined the arrangements for Committee correspondence. Major correspondence (in and out) is tabled at Committee meetings. Members should receive a reply, but sometimes this may be via a general Pianola message addressing their issue rather than an individual reply. Brief acknowledgements of members' incoming correspondence should be used.

## **15. OTHER BUSINESS**

Request from a small group of around six people to use a CBC room on a semi-regular basis (eg, Saturday nights, weekly or fortnightly) for the purpose of table top board gaming

Not discussed due to time pressures. Margaret, Lyn and Deb will follow up.

## **16. NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held on Monday 8 February 2021 at 1.30pm.

Meeting closed 5.20pm

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